Q. ***Gore Vidal, writing in*** **Esquire** ***magazine, really let the Kennedys have it between the eyes. Is this because Bobby Kennedy once kicked him in the rump during a White House party?—Dianne H., Newark, N. J.*** Parade 5/17/69

A. Bobby Kennedy never kicked Vidal in the rump. Several years ago at a White House party, convinced that Vidal was alcoholically exuberant to the detriment of Mrs. Hugh Auchincloss, mother of Jacqueline Kennedy, Bobby asked Vidal to leave the White House, whereupon Vidal supposedly cried out, "I'm going to destroy you." Reached in Rome for his version of the fracas, Vidal refused to detail his recollection of the incident, said only: "I do not wish to dignify it by discussion. It did no credit to either of us. It was a foolish incident both Kennedy and I are ashamed of." Senator Kennedy isn't ashamed of it at all.